



## City of Phoenix

PUBLIC TRANSIT DEPARTMENT

December 2, 2009

Mr. Leslie T. Rogers  
Regional Administrator, Region IX  
U.S. Department of Transportation  
Federal Transit Administration  
201 Mission Street, Suite 1650  
San Francisco, CA 94015-1831

Re: Request for Categorical Exclusion for the North Scottsdale/Loop 101 Park-and-Ride  
(ARRA No. AZ-96-X002)

Dear Mr. Rogers:

I am writing to request the Federal Transit Administration's (FTA) assistance in obtaining a Letter of Concurrence for National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) compliance for the construction of the North Scottsdale/Loop 101 Park-and-Ride facility at Scottsdale and Thunderbird roads, specifically a request for a Categorical Exclusion (CE).

Title 23, Section 771.117(d) 4 allows for a CE, with FTA approval, for "Transportation corridor fringe parking facilities." For this type of action to be acceptable for a CE, "the applicant shall submit documentation which demonstrates that the specific conditions or criteria these CEs are satisfied and that significant environmental effects will not result."

Under NEPA guidelines, projects must not violate the following conditions in order to qualify for a CE:

1. Does not require the relocation of significant numbers of people;
2. Does not have a significant impact on any natural, cultural, recreational, historic, or other resource;
3. Does not involve significant impacts on travel patterns; or
4. Have any other either individual or cumulative significant environmental impacts.

These conditions were evaluated for the proposed construction of the North Scottsdale/Loop 101 Park-and-Ride facility. Based upon environmental studies, it has been determined that the proposed project is classified as a CE and will not create any significant impacts on the referenced conditions, as described in the following conclusions.

1. This project will not require the relocation of any people or businesses.
2. This project will not have a significant impact on natural, cultural, recreational, historic or other resources.
  - a. There are no parklands located in or around the proposed park-and-ride site.
  - b. No biological issues were identified as the site does not contain any suitable habitat for any threatened or endangered species.

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- c. The site is located approximately 1,200 feet southwest of the end of the Scottsdale Airport. Two sensitive noise receptors were identified adjacent to the site: a church and a cluster of residences. The project site and surrounding area are located within the airport's 65 dB noise contour. Existing noise levels at the two sensitive noise receptor sites are assumed to be 64 dB. Due to the relatively low auto and bus traffic volumes associated with the North Scottsdale/Loop 101 Park-and-Ride facility, no exceedances of the FTA Noise Impact Criteria are expected. The two sensitive noise receptors are located outside the impact screening distance of 86 feet from Parcel A and 18 feet of Parcel B. Noise and vibration impacts associated with this project are considered minimal.
  - d. The project is located in the Phoenix maintenance area for carbon monoxide and nonattainment areas for ozone and particulate matter. This project has been approved in the *Maricopa Association of Governments Transportation Improvement Program and Conformity Analysis* (TIP No. SCT09-803T) and complies with the Federal Transportation Rule. The air quality assessment for the project concluded that the operation of the park-and-ride facility would have minimal long-term impacts on air quality and would not cause or contribute to an exceedance of air quality standards.
- 3. The peak hour trips generated by the new park-and-ride facility, a relatively small component of the overall forecasted traffic volumes for the area, are anticipated to negatively impact the intersection of Scottsdale and Thunderbird roads. However, the regional roadway network would improve overall as more cars are removed from the roadway and replaced with public bus transit.
  - 4. There are no additional environmental concerns for this project.

Given the information listed above and included in the North Scottsdale/Loop 101 Park-and-Ride CE, we believe the documentation demonstrates that the specific conditions and criteria for this CE are satisfied and that significant environmental impacts will not result. A Letter of Concurrence is needed from the FTA so that the project can move forward with all phases of development.

Thank you for your continued assistance with this matter. Please call Mark Melnychenko, Principal Planner, City of Phoenix Transit Department, at (602) 262-7240 with any questions regarding this request or if you need additional project information.

Sincerely,



Debbie Cotton  
Public Transit Director

c: Ken Kessler, City of Phoenix  
Jerome Wiggins, FTA